

Why we study the African Kingdoms?

Powerful Sub-Saharan kingdoms were a major source of commodities desired by the rest of the world – including salt, gold, and ivory. These items made cities in these kingdoms wealthy and brought outsiders who wanted to convert the local populace in religion and culture thereby intertwining the destinies of the people involved. Today our world continues to feel the impact of the medieval African kingdoms from storytelling, music and art.



Essential Questions

1. In what ways did the spread of Islam affect West African culture and society?
2. How does the geography of Western Africa impact how people, goods/services, and ideas move from place to place?
3. How did West African culture influence modern society?

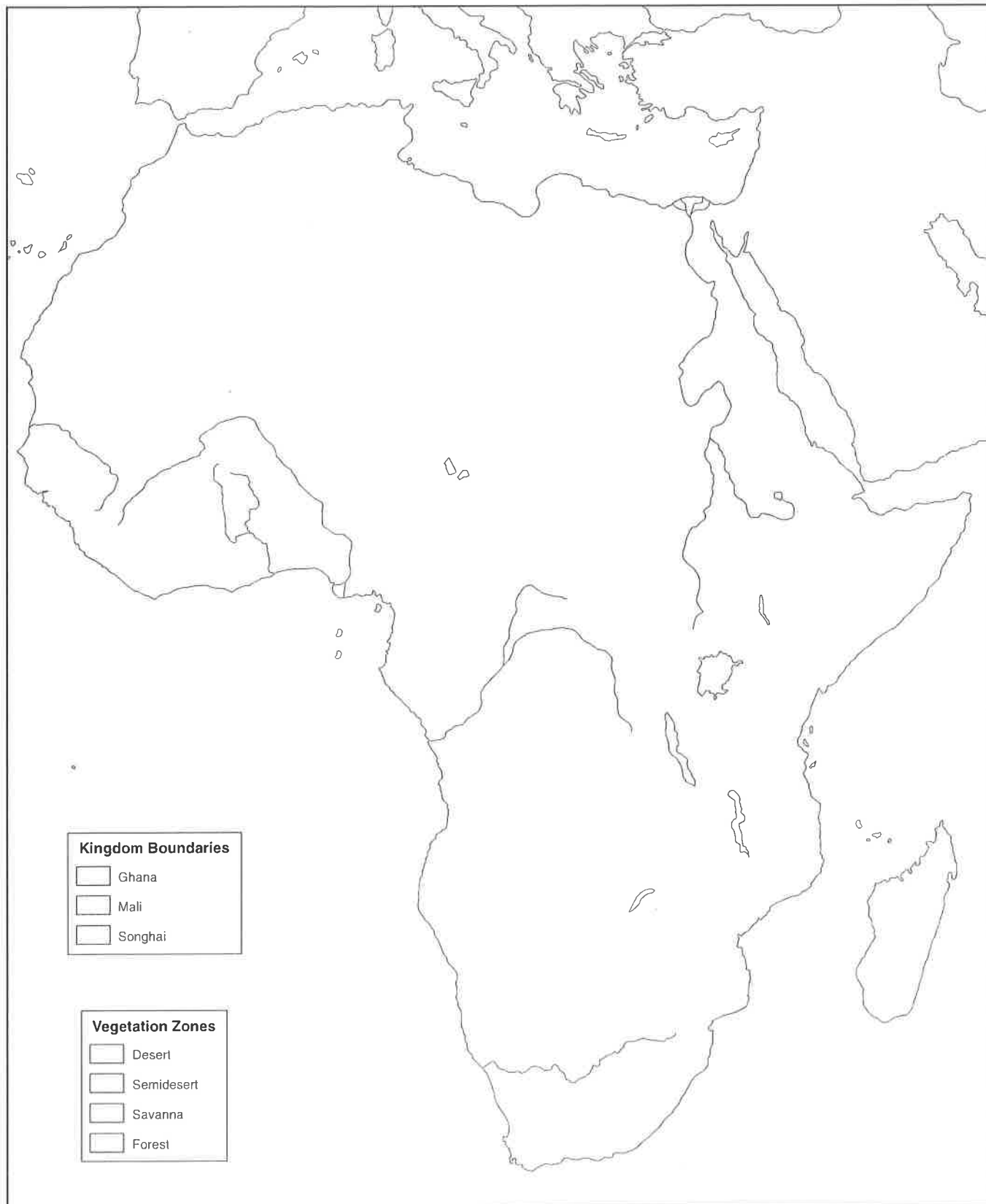


Africa Geography Challenge

Use the map on pgs. 134-135 to answer the following questions.

1. Which oceans border Africa to the west, east, and north? *Label these 3 bodies of water on the map? **Lightly shade these blue***
2. Into what 4 regions is Africa divided? *Draw and label these regions with a black pen.*
3. *Lightly shade each of Africa's vegetation zones in a different color. Then fill in the key to show the meaning of each color. In which of these zones do you think people were least likely to settle? Why?*
4. *Outline Ghana's boundary in red, Mali's boundary in blue, and Songhai's boundary in brown. Add these colors to the key. In what region of Africa were these kingdoms located? What vegetation zones are in this part of Africa*
5. *Label the Niger and Senegal Rivers and trace them in blue. Why do you think these rivers were important to the societies that developed in West Africa?*
6. *Label the Sahara Desert. Why do you think the territory below the Sahara Desert might have had limited contact with lands to the north of the desert before the late 700's C.E.?*
7. *What religion spread from North Africa to West Africa? Draw and label an arrow to show the spread of this religion.*
8. *What city was an important center of trade and learning for the kingdoms of Mali and Songhai? Label that city.*

GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE 3



Geography and Its Influence On African History

Geography is the mother of history because it has influenced the history of many world cultures and civilizations. Africa is no exception to this. Geography still plays an important role in African societies and countries today.

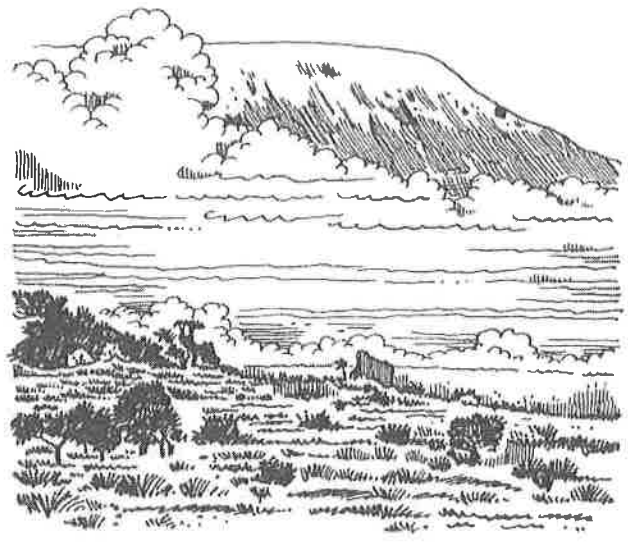
Millions of years ago, the continent of Africa separated from the Asian continent at the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea, which disconnected northeast Africa from the Arabian peninsula. This was the result

of natural forces that shaped the earth. The earth's outer layer, known as the crust, broke apart and created a deep valley, which stretches from the Red Sea into Ethiopia and down the east coast of Africa to Kenya and Tanzania in the south. This is known as the East African Rift Valley. The African Rift Valley is one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world today. The natural beauty that was created became one of the reasons for European whites settling in East Africa during the early twentieth century.

Geography has made the continent of Africa the cradle of humankind and the place of origin of many civilizations and cultures. The first known African civilization, namely the Egyptian civilization, began along the Nile River. The Nile River is the longest river in the world. It starts at Lake Albert and Victoria and flows northward toward the Mediterranean Sea, where it forms a delta. Other major rivers where African civilizations and empires developed include the Senegal and Niger Rivers in West Africa, the Congo River in Central Africa, and the Zambezi River in southeast Africa.

For a long time, Africa remained isolated from the rest of the world due to oceans, deserts, and forests. Africa is surrounded on all sides by water—the Mediterranean to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Indian Ocean and Red Sea to the east. There are three deserts in Africa, the Sahara Desert in the north and the smaller Kalahari and Namib Deserts in the south. The Sahara Desert (*al-Sahra* in Arabic, which means “desert”) occupies the greater part of northern Africa. It was a major barrier separating northern Africa and African territory south of the Sahara, which is known as sub-Saharan Africa. This separation affected the course of African history by keeping the Islamic Civilization in the north largely separated from the African civilizations to the south.

Africa was also rich in natural resources, which included metal ores, precious minerals, and stones, as well as ivory and gold. Metal ores of iron and copper were found scattered throughout the continent. Gold was abundant in West and Central Africa, while diamonds came from South Africa. The Zambezi Valley was known for its sources of gold and ivory. Salt was an important product in North Africa. These resources attracted Europeans to a great extent, resulting in the colonization of the continent in the early twentieth century. Animal life was also abundant in Africa. The Africans regarded the



Mt. Kilimanjaro in East Africa

animals as their brothers. In the past, as well as in present times, they depended on the wildlife for their survival as a source of food and trade.

Africa's isolated character and rich resources, as well as its close proximity to water and nature, made it unnecessary for Africans to go beyond their homes. The Africans had everything they needed to survive and live happily. The isolated character of the continent is still apparent today. The European exploitation of African land and human resources has caused Africa to be technologically behind the times. In addition, the problems that African countries faced following their independence has stagnated the economic growth of Africa within the world. This is one reason many of the countries are considered third-world countries today.

The physical landscape in Africa is diverse due in part to the different climates present. There are four types of vegetation in Africa—deserts, woodlands, grasslands, and forests. Tropical rain forest is located around the equator along the south coast of West Africa and into the Congo River basin. North and south of the rain forest, the land changes to woodland and grassland, known as the Savannah. Bordering the Savannah to the north and south lie the deserts. Both the Sahara in the north and the Kalahari and Namib Deserts in the south lie around the 20° lines of latitude. A number of mountain ranges and highlands are scattered throughout North and East Africa, most notably the Atlas Mountains in the north and the Drakensberg Range in the south (see Map 1 on page 83).

Africa can be divided into seven regions:

1. North Africa is the area along the Mediterranean coast from modern Morocco to Libya, including the Sahara Desert. The southern border of this area lies roughly along the 20° north latitude line.
2. Nilotic Africa consists of the lands around the Nile River, in the area of modern Egypt and Sudan.
3. Sudanic Africa is also known as the Sudan region. This area lies below the Sahara Desert, stretching from the Atlantic coast to the Red Sea coastline, from modern Senegal to Ethiopia. (It must be noted that there is some overlap between the Sudan region and West Africa, as well as Nilotic Africa.)
4. West Africa consists of the coastal rain forest region from Cape Verde to Cameroon. This area includes the West Sudanic region, south of the Sahara to Lake Chad.
5. Central Africa lies north of the Kalahari Desert and Zambezi River and east of the Great Rift Valley and Lake Tanganyika.
6. East Africa stretches from Ethiopia along the Great Rift Valley to the Zambezi River.
7. South Africa is the area south of the Zambezi River to the Cape of Good Hope and includes the Kalahari and Namib Deserts.

Name _____ Date _____

Challenges

1. What is the name of the deep valley which lies along the east coast of Africa?

2. What is the longest river in Africa?

3. What is the first known African civilization?

4. Name the five major rivers in Africa.

5. Name the three deserts in Africa.

6. By which bodies of water is Africa surrounded?

7. Africa can be divided into how many regions?

8. Along which latitude lines are the deserts in Africa located?

9. Name the four types of vegetation found in Africa.

10. What natural resources does Africa have?




Name _____ Date _____

Points to Ponder

1. Why were the river basins of Africa good places for the development of many different civilizations?

2. Discuss why Europeans became so involved in the exploration and exploitation of Africa.

Map Activities

-  Using a classroom atlas and the blank map of Africa on page 89, locate and label all of the countries in Africa.
-  Name the seven regions in Africa. Using an atlas and Map 3 on page 85, list the different countries belonging within each region. Color in (with different colors) and label each region on the activity map on page 89.
-  Using Map 2 on page 84 as a reference, draw, color in, and label the four types of vegetation found in Africa on the blank activity map on page 89.

Lesson 1: The Geography of Africa

Directions: Decide whether each detail describes a desert, savanna, rain forest, or Mediterranean climate zone in Africa. For desert write a *D* in the blank, for savanna write an *S*, for rain forest write an *R*, and for Mediterranean write an *M*. Then answer the questions that follow. You may use your textbook.

- ___ 1. about half of Africa
- ___ 2. mostly hot summers
- ___ 3. thick vegetation
- ___ 4. hot and dry
- ___ 5. suitable for agriculture
- ___ 6. south of the Sahara
- ___ 7. little vegetation and few animals
- ___ 8. farming nearly impossible
- ___ 9. covers a very small area of the continent
- ___ 10. generally mild and rainy winters
- ___ 11. the Sahara

12. What made the journeys across Africa dangerous?

13. Why did people migrate to other areas of Africa?



Notes for Home: Your child learned how the geography of Africa affects its people.

Home Activity: Select a climate zone discussed in this chapter. With your child, compare and contrast characteristics of its climate to the climate where you live.

Lesson 1: The Geography of Africa

Vocabulary

savanna short grassy plains

Climate Zones

Africa is the second largest continent on Earth. It has eight climate zones. Some of these zones are desert, savanna, rain forest, and Mediterranean. The desert zone is hot and dry. It includes the Sahara, the largest desert in the world. Very few plants and animals are found in the desert. The **savanna**, or grassy plains, covers about half of Africa. Here the ground is good for growing crops or herding cattle. There is only a small area of rain forests in Africa. It is almost impossible to farm there because of the thick plant life. The Mediterranean climate is mild. Summers are hot and winters are mild and rainy. Some areas have fertile land that is good for farming.

Mountains and Rivers

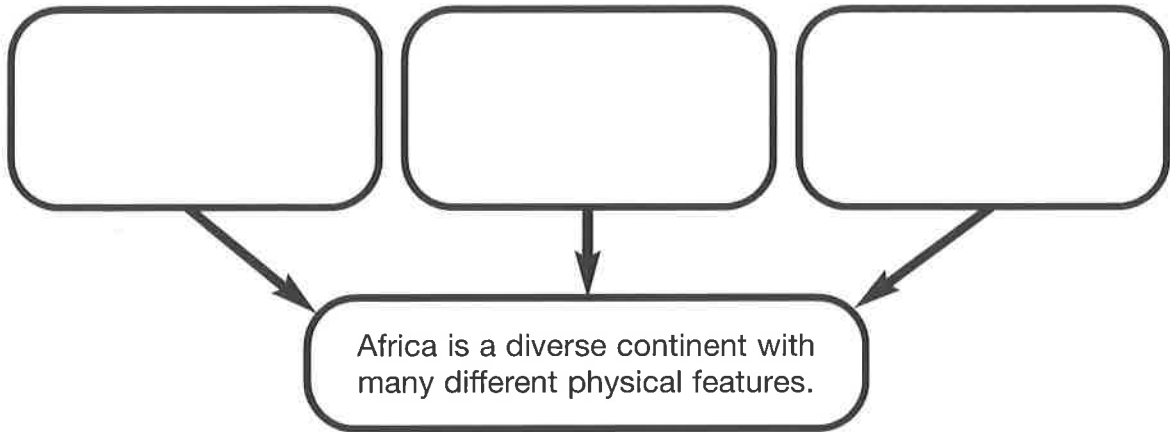
The climate in Africa affects how people and goods can move. Traders in the desert face sandstorms and heat. They find little water. Also, different African landforms can slow journeys. These landforms include mountains, plateaus, cataracts, and valleys. The Great Rift Valley is in East Africa. It is so big it can be seen from space. Plateaus cover much of the central part of Africa. Many rivers flow from the plateaus to the coast. The main rivers include the Zambezi, Congo, Niger, and Nile. Many people used these rivers to move trade goods.

Spread of Peoples

Changes in climate caused people to move around Africa. The Sahara was once wet and had grasses and trees. The climate changed and little rain fell. People then left the area. People also moved because resources had been used up. Linguists were able to trace the movements of some of these people. Linguists are people who study languages. They noticed that a language group called Bantu is spoken in many parts of Africa today. Many words in the Bantu languages are similar. Linguists believe that a group that spoke Bantu traveled south in Africa between 100 B.C. and A.D. 1500. They spread their languages as they moved across Africa.

Lesson 1: Review

1. **Summarize** Write three short sentences to form the summary below.



2. Describe the major climate zones of Africa.

3. What are the major rivers of Africa?

4. How did Africans adapt to their environment?

5. **Critical Thinking: Make Generalizations** Why do linguists believe that the Bantu speakers spread across Africa?

My Lesson Guide

Directions: Complete the chart using the information below.

- hot summers and mild winters
- agriculture
- tropical
- East Africa
- herd cattle
- dry but more fertile than the Sahara
- hot and dry
- northern Africa

Climate Zones of Africa

Climate	Location	Weather	Human Activity
Mediterranean	North African coast		
Desert			very little human activity
Savanna	south of the Sahara		
Rain Forest			a little farming

Talk About It

With a partner, talk about which region in Africa you would like to visit and why. Do you want to go mountain climbing? visit the rain forest? watch a giraffe? Describe the climate zone you wish to visit and discuss the type of weather you could expect, what you might see, and how you could prepare for the trip.



Notes for Home: Your child learned about the geography of Africa.

Home Activity: Ask your child to describe how the geography of Africa differs from region to region.

Lesson 2: West African Kingdoms

Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were wealthy kingdoms in West Africa.

Directions: Complete the outline with information from this lesson about these empires. You may use your textbook.

I. Ghana

A. People

1. Religion of _____
2. Adopted Arabic system of _____

B. Economy and Trade

1. _____ for a living
2. Capital city _____, major center of trade

C. Political Rule

1. Founded by _____, who _____ empire by 1203

II. Mali

A. People

1. An Arab _____ built mosques, and _____ brought Muslim learning
2. _____, oldest known city in sub-Saharan Africa: 200 B.C. to A.D. 1400

B. Economy and Trade

1. Strong _____ economy, but relied on _____ for wealth

C. Political Rule

1. _____ greatest king, took pilgrimage to _____

III. Songhai

A. People

1. _____ among different Muslim groups contributed to end of empire

B. Economy and Trade

1. Bigger center of _____ than Mali

C. Political Rule

1. _____, important king who divided land into _____
2. Professional _____ protected kingdom, defeated by _____



Notes for Home: Your child learned about three empires of West Africa.

Home Activity: With your child, review the information in this outline. Together, create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai.

African Kingdoms – West African Kingdoms

Chapter 13, Lesson 2 – West African Kingdoms, p. 374-379

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

1. On the bottom-left corner of page 374, there is an image of a Spanish map from which century? _____
2. On the Spanish map, who is seated wearing a crown during his pilgrimage to Mecca that began in 1324 A.D.? _____
3. Ghana was so well known for its trade in _____ that knowledge of it reached as far as Baghdad (modern Iraq) by the 8th century.
4. On the top-right corner of page 375 there is an image of bars of _____, which were tied together and ready to take the market. This commodity was used almost like money.
5. On the bottom of page 375 there is person filling shallow pits with _____. Once the _____ had evaporated, a cake of dried _____ would be retrieved from the pits.
6. Mali grew to include more land than had been controlled by the empire of _____.
7. Although Mali had a strong _____ economy, they relied on _____ for wealth.
8. By _____ (year), Mali became the most powerful empire in West Africa.
9. _____ was one of the major trading cities in Mali. Mansa Musa brought back an Arab architect to build _____ in the city.
10. On the bottom of page 377 is a map that shows the three major West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai (Songhay). The purple shows an outline of Ghana in about the year _____, the Orange shows the kingdom of Mali in about the year _____, and the green show Songhai (Songhay) in about the year _____.
11. Songhai (Songhay) started along what river? _____
12. Under King Sonni Ali, Songhai became an even bigger center of _____ and _____ that Mali had been.

Lesson 2: West African Kingdoms

Vocabulary

griot a professional storyteller

Ghana

Gold was valuable in West Africa. The ancient kingdom of Ghana was known for its gold trade. Ghana was founded in about A.D. 300 by the Soninke people. It is believed that people in Ghana farmed, fished, and herded cattle. Ghana was located between salt mines in the Sahara and gold fields in Wangara. Ghana became a great trading empire by the late 900s. Berber people from North Africa helped traders get across the Sahara. The Berbers helped keep thieves away from the trade routes. Safe routes kept Ghana's capital, Koumbi, a major trade center. Ghana taxed major trade items. This made the empire even richer. Muslim traders brought new ideas and the religion of Islam to Ghana. By the early 1000s, the Soninke people began to lose control of Ghana. Different groups fought for power. By 1203 King Sumanguru took control of the empire.

Mali

In 1235 Sundiata defeated King Sumanguru. Sundiata started the empire of Mali. Sundiata's life story is still told by **griots**, or professional storytellers. People in Mali grew rice, onions, grains, yams, and cotton. Mali depended on trade for wealth. Gold was discovered in the empire. This made Mali wealthy. By 1300 Mali was the most powerful empire in Africa. Mansa Musa, Sundiata's grandson, became a great king. He was a Muslim. Mansa Musa is known for his trip to Mecca. On this trip he took thousands of people, gold, camels, and other supplies. He stopped in Egypt along the way. Many Egyptian writers remembered his wealth, intelligence, and generosity. Mansa Musa brought back an Arab architect to build mosques in Timbuktu, a trading city in Mali. He also

brought back Arab scholars to teach Muslim beliefs. His trip to Mecca interested European mapmakers. Europeans also became interested in Mali's resources.

Jenne-jenno

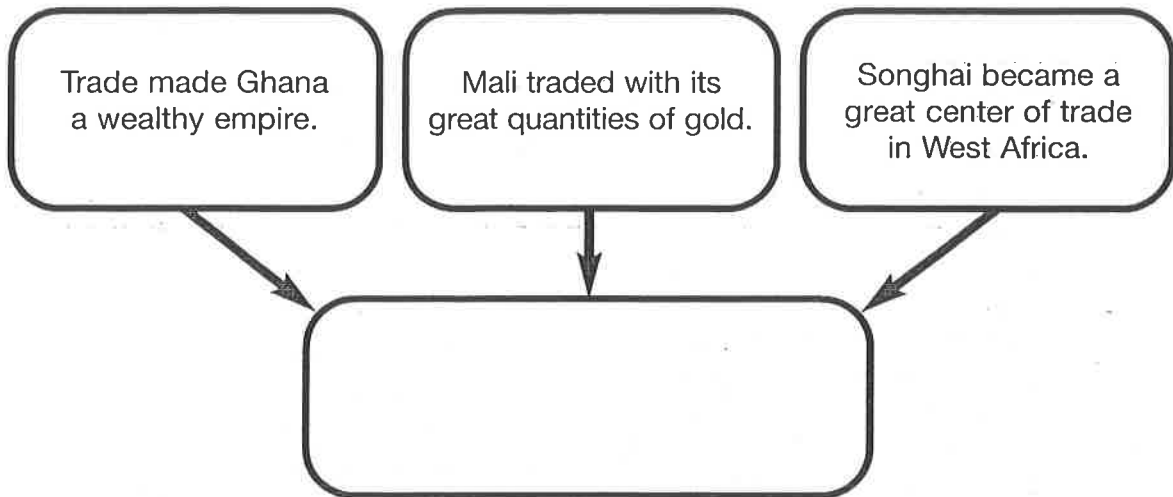
Jenne-jenno was a city on the Niger River. It is the oldest known city in sub-Saharan Africa. People first settled there about 200 B.C. During the Mali empire, trade goods were brought to Jenne-jenno. The goods were shipped on the river to Timbuktu. By 1400 the city was deserted. No one is certain why.

Songhai

The Songhai were farmers, traders, and warriors. They had fought to stay independent of Mali. By about 1464 the Songhai empire began taking over the land around it. King Sonni Ali helped make Songhai an even bigger trade and learning center than Mali had been. He split the empire into different states. Governors ruled these states. The king created an army and navy to protect his kingdom and trade. Yet the empire did not last as long as those of Ghana and Mali. Fighting among different Muslim groups led some states to leave the empire. In 1591 the Songhai empire was attacked by the Moroccans. They defeated the Songhai using a new technology, guns.

Lesson 2: Review

1. **Summarize** Write a summary of the sentences listed below.



2. What was the role of Ghana in the movement of trade goods across the Sahara?

3. Who was Mansa Musa?

4. How were the West African kingdoms crossroads for trade?

5. **Critical Thinking: Make Inferences** Why would European mapmakers include Mali on their maps after hearing about Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca?

My Lesson Guide

Directions: Complete the time line with the information below.

- The Songhai refuse to pay tribute to Mali.
- Ghana becomes a great trading empire.
- Moroccans attack the Songhai with guns.
- The Soninke people find Ghana.
- Sundiata defeats King Sumanguru and establishes the empire of Mali.
- Mali is the most powerful empire in West Africa.
- The Songhai begin to take over the land around them.

A.D. 300	
900s	
1235	
1300	
1375	
1464	
1591	

Talk About It

With a partner, suppose you are Egyptian writers who have just met Mansa Musa on his pilgrimage to Mecca. Discuss your opinion of Mansa Musa. Then tell what you would write about him so that others could learn about him.



Notes for Home: Your child learned about West African kingdoms.

Home Activity: Ask your child what helped West African kingdoms grow.

African Kingdoms – King Sundiata of Mali Questions

Chapter 13, Lesson 2 – West African Kingdoms

Name:

Date:

Period:

King Sundiata of Mali

King Sundiata made Mali a great trading kingdom.

Why does trade matter so much to the success of a society?

King Sundiata of Mali converted to Islam, but allowed for freedom of religion.

Why would it be beneficial to allow a diverse population to have freedom of religion?

King Sundiata believed in peace. He sent his sons and daughters to live in distant kings' courts and hosted princes and princesses in his own court.

King Sundiata believed that if people grew up knowing each other, they would be less likely to go to war in future generations. Do you believe this to be true? Why?



READING NOTES 13

Read each of Sections 13.2 to 13.6, and complete the notes.

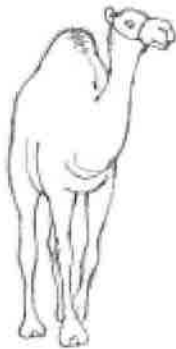
13.2 Ghana's Government and Military

Around the image of the king of Ghana, draw and label three things that show the wealth and power of the ruler.



13.3 Trade: The Source of Ghana's Wealth

1. On the camel's back, draw salt and two other products a North African trader might bring to trade in West Africa. Label the products. In the Wangaran's basket, draw and label three products the people of the southern forest areas brought to trade with the North African traders.



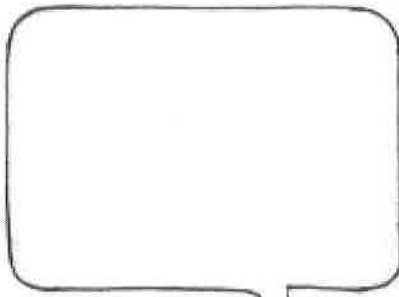
2. What two factors led to the growth of trans-Saharan trade?
3. Why was travel across the Sahara difficult?

READING NOTES 13

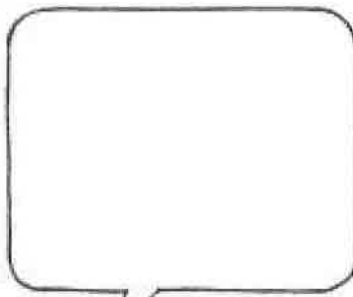


13.4 The Gold-Salt Trade

Fill in the voice bubbles. Have the North African trader explain why salt was important to the people in the West African forest. Have the Wangaran explain why gold was important. Have the king explain how Ghana became wealthy through trans-Saharan caravan trade.



North African trader



Wangaran gold miner



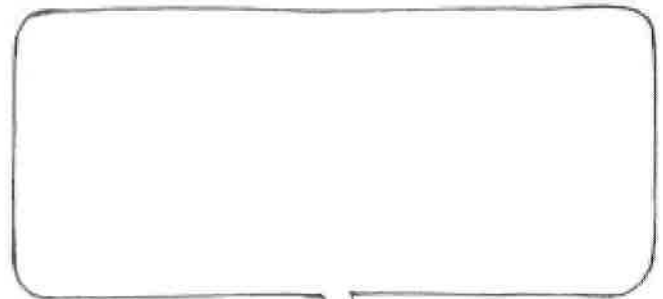
King of Ghana

13.5 The Exchange of Goods

Fill in the voice bubbles for the North African trader and the Wangaran. Have each explain what he does during silent bartering.



North African trader



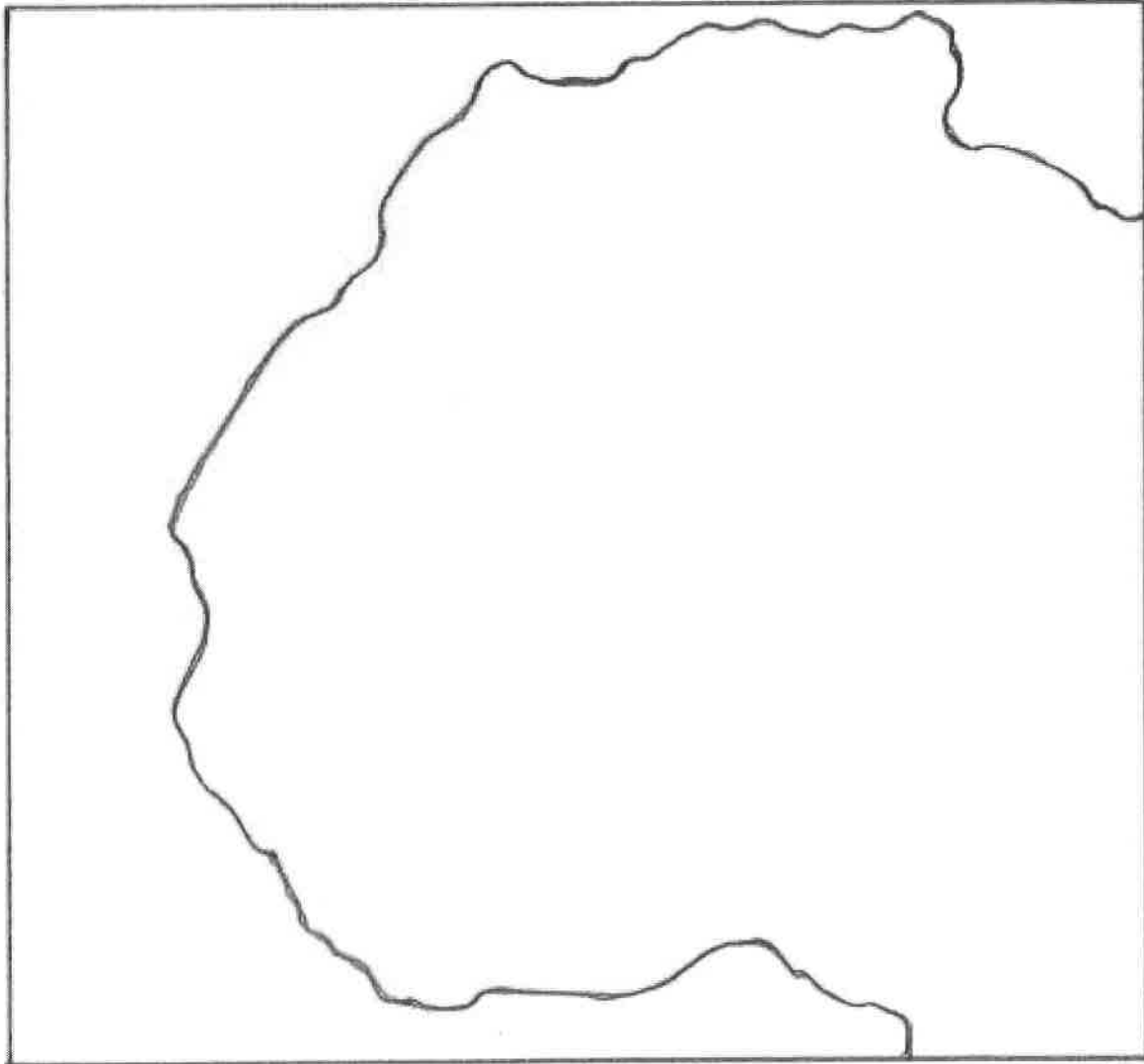
Wangaran gold miner



READING NOTES 13

13.6 The Decline of Ghana and the Rise of Mali

On the map of West Africa, write two reasons why the kingdom of Ghana declined.



The Rise and Spread of Islam in North and East Africa

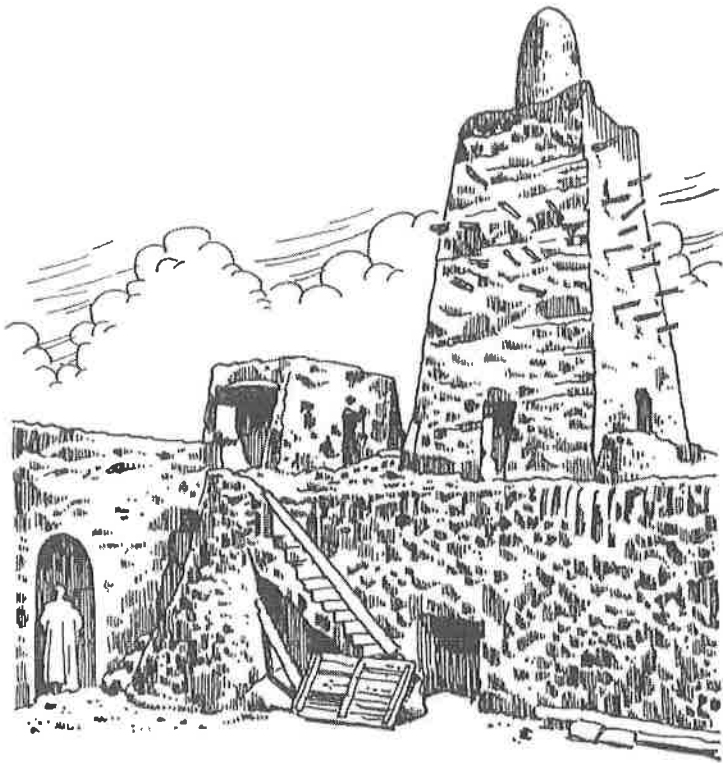
Islam means "to surrender" to the will of the god, Allah; a world religion based on the faith written in the Koran; founded by the prophet Mohammed; adherents to Islam are known as Muslims; fundamental doctrine: "Allah is the only God, and Mohammed is his prophet."

Islam started in the Saudi Arabian peninsula and was founded by the prophet Mohammed (A.D. 571–632). After undergoing a mystical experience in Mecca, Mohammed began to preach and teach his newly acquired faith. Islam was started on July 16, 622. This date signifies the flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina, known as the "Hegira." This date marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

After Mohammed's flight to Medina, he became the religious and political leader of his followers. By the time of his death in A.D. 632, Mohammed had united most of the Arabian peninsula under this new faith. The goal of Mohammed's successors was conquest and the conversion to Islam of the entire world. The first phase of expansion happened right after Mohammed's death. During this time (632–661), Islam spread throughout Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and east to India, having conquered the Persian Empire. In the next phase (661–750), Muslim expansion went into North Africa, then under Byzantine rule, and from there crossed into Spain. By 750, Islam had reached as far west as Spain and as far east as India.

Islam established political stability and economic recovery throughout the conquered territories, including North Africa, and laid the groundwork for a prosperous civilization. Islamic civilization was a literate, wealthy, and urban civilization. As the Muslims expanded, they assumed local fashion and adapted to local ways. This was one of the reasons why Islamic civilization became so successful.

After 950, political disintegration of the Islamic civilization led to the establishment of several independent political units, such as the Fatimid Dynasty in Egypt, North Africa, Syria, and Arabia (969–1171). The followers of this dynasty became known as Shiites, a sect within the Islam faith. In western North Africa, several Berber Kingdoms arose. The first was the Almoravid Kingdom, followed by the Almohad Kingdom. Despite political disinte-



This Islamic mosque in Timbuktu is constructed of mud and wood.

gration after 950, a major change occurred: Islam superseded Christianity in this area. It was Islamic North Africa that was to greatly influence Africa south of the Sahara.

With the arrival of Islam, the trans-Saharan trade routes were reopened, and new trade routes emerged. Arab Muslim merchants traded far and wide. They established themselves on the coasts of the Indian Ocean, as far as India, China, and East Africa. In North Africa, the Berbers, who had adopted the Islamic faith, once more became the middlemen in the trans-Saharan trade network. The traded goods from Africa grew in demand and included gold, ivory, iron, and slaves.

By the tenth century A.D., networks of commerce had been established far into the interior of the African continent, between North and West Africa, and between East Africa and the central interior. Within the Sudan and along the East African coastline, old markets grew and new markets were founded. These markets turned into prosperous and wealthy cities. Examples of cities in the Sudan include Kumbi, Audagost, Timbuktu, Gao, and Jenne. In East Africa emerged the cities of Kilwa, Zanzibar, Mogadishu, and Mombasa, among many. All these cities flourished and became powerful and wealthy through trade with either the Berbers or the Arabs.

With the trade came also the spread and influence of the Islamic faith and ideals into East and West Africa. However, the degree of influence and Islamic conversion differed between the two regions.

In East Africa, many coastal Africans converted to Islam. Urbanization developed, and the trading markets grew to become prosperous cities. Mosques were built. Inter-marriage between the Africans and Arabs also occurred. This helped expand the trading settlements and helped successful trade with the Indian Ocean. This trade was successful until the arrival of the Portuguese in the sixteenth century, when they slowly destroyed what the Africans had built.

The Islam influence in West Africa was more indirect. Islam sought converts primarily in the trading communities within the cities. The townspeople and the people from the countryside never converted to Islam and continued practicing their old traditions. By the thirteenth century, kings of various states also started to convert to the Islamic faith for commercial and political reasons.

From the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries, Islam expanded into the Sudanic region and helped in the rise of powerful states. Islam brought a literate bureaucracy, Islamic learning, and the idea of centralized power and authority. The influence of Islam was important for two reasons. It revived and expanded commerce, and it helped in the development of powerful states, such as the states of Mali, Songhai, and Kanem-Bornu.

These states acted as middlemen in the trade between the Sudan and the interior along the West African coast. Many powerful small states arose along the coast of West Africa as a result, such as the state of Benin, the Akan states, and the kingdoms of Kongo and Luba. The Africans on the east coast also traded with people from the central interior, creating new political entities in that region, such as the "Great" Zimbabwe Civilization.

Name _____ Date _____

Challenges

1. What does Islam mean?

2. Who founded the Islamic religion?

3. What was the Hegira?

4. What was the significance of the Hegira?

5. To what regions in the world did Islam spread within a period of 200 years?

6. What was the reason for the decline of the Islamic civilization in North Africa after A.D. 950?

7. Name three cities in the Sudan region of West Africa that prospered as a result of the reopening of the trans-Saharan trade routes in the eighth century.

8. Name three cities that emerged on the east coast of Africa as a result of the Arab trade with the Indian Ocean.

9. In what two ways did Islam influence sub-Saharan Africa?

10. Name at least three states that were formed south of the Sahara as a result of trade networks and Islamic influence.

Name _____ Date _____

Points to Ponder

1. Describe the rise and expansion of Islam in Africa and Asia.

2. To what extent did Islam spread and influence sub-Saharan Africa?

3. What are the differences between East and West Africa in terms of the degree of Islamic influence?

The Influence of Islam on West Africa
History Alive (pg. 155-163)

Name: _____

14.2 Spread of Islam in West Africa

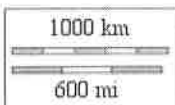
1.) How did the Islamic religion reach Ghana?

2.) How was Islam able to spread more widely in the 11th century in Ghana?

3.) How do we know that the Mande (people from the kingdom of Mali) did not fully accept Islam?

4.) What was the importance of Mansa Musa as king of Mali? Why was his trip to Makkah so important?

5.) What was the importance of Ashia Mohammed Toure to the Songhai Empire?

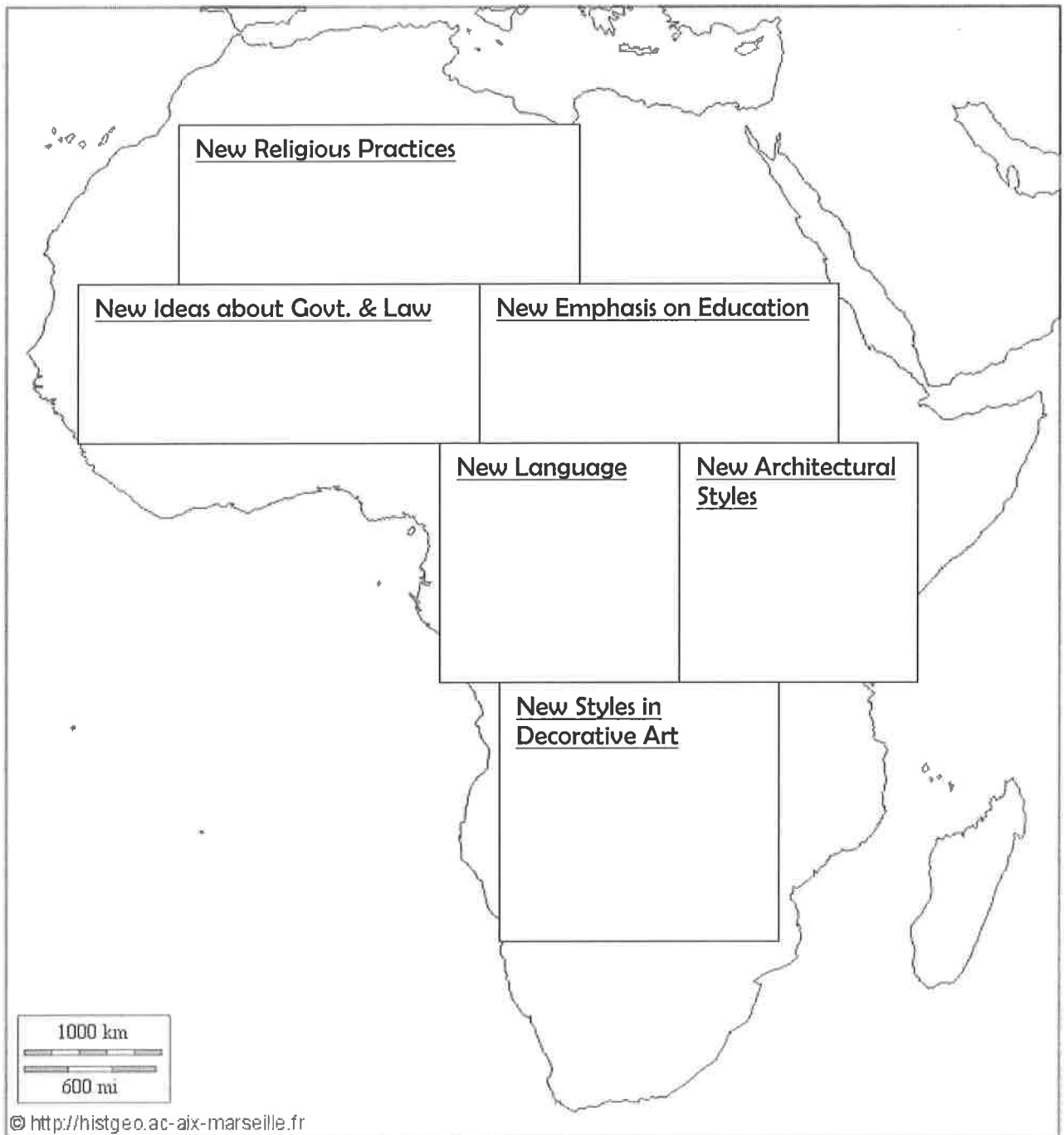


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6.) Write a 20 word summary on your assigned section.

Section _____ New _____

20 Word Summaries



Mansa Musa, An African Builder



In all of African history, no one has left more of an imprint on the outside world than Mansa Kankan Musa, ruler of Mali from 1312-37 A.D. Also known as Gongo Musa, he became one of the most powerful leaders of his time and was to make Mali's name renowned throughout the European and Islamic countries. Beginning in the 14th century, his name and that of Mali were to become synonymous with opulence, learning and justice.

Called by historians Musa the Magnificent, he was a very successful leader, celebrated for his enlightenment, justice and piety (goodness). Inheriting a great empire, he extended its boundaries and made his country a world power. Perhaps his greatest contribution to Mali history was the spread of its fame and prestige to other lands.

The Empire of Mali was founded by the great warrior-diplomat, Sundiata, who reigned from 1230-55 A.D., on the Mandinka plateau between the Niger and Senegal Rivers. Here, in the original home of the Mandingo people, Sundiata built his capital, Niani, at the confluence of the Niger and Sankarani Rivers. A man of foresight, he extended the country's boundaries and enforced throughout his realm, excellent law and order. More than any other ruler in his time, he encouraged agriculture, especially the cultivation of cotton and the mining of gold. His policies were to make him one of the most heroic and constructive rulers in African history.

After Sundiata's death in 1255, there was, until Mansa Musa took power in 1312, a period of confusion. At least six different rulers took power, but the only concrete achievements attributed to these kings was the extension of Mali's boundaries.

When Mansa Musa took over the king of state, he added the important towns of Timbuktu and Gao to his kingdom. However, his greatest contribution to Mali's history was the consolidation of the foundation laid by Sundiata. Subsequently, Musa's name and that of Sundiata were to dominate the history of the empire.

Known as the country's architect, Mansa Musa welded a nation, out of a huge diversity of peoples, whose leaders for 150 years dominated the affairs of West Africa. Establishing Islam as the base for uniting the wide diversity of tribes, he championed this religion with extraordinary enthusiasm. Mali had been nominally Muslim before his time but under his rule Islam became well established in the Royal Court and was installed as the official state religion. Thereafter, the urban centers throughout the country took on an Islamic character. It is said that the historic greatness of Mali was due to the fact that Musa placed his country firmly in the Muslim world.

Musa was famed for his piety and the building of imposing mosques, yet he never fought a religious war and applied Muslim policies with a hesitant hand. Even though he once contemplated ending his days in Mecca, Musa was no fanatic. He did not outlaw other religions and often performed the rites and ceremonies of the Mandinka faith. An Egyptian living in Mali during his reign wrote that he presided over traditional courts and often settled witchcraft cases.

In the economic, educational and political fields his policies were no less impressive. His encouragement of trade between Mali, North Africa and beyond, mostly in kola nuts, ivory, salt and, above all, gold, brought his land great prosperity.

He encouraged learning by his generous patronage of schools and Muslim scholars. He also sent students to study in Fez and other famous centers of knowledge. His encouragement of education attracted intellectuals from the other Islamic countries and made Timbuktu one of the foremost centers of Islamic scholarship in the world.

Above all, Mansa Musa's famous pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 spread Mali's influence and prestige, not only in the Islamic countries but to the far corners of medieval Europe. In his train, as he traveled eastward, were 60,000 courtiers and servants, richly dressed, and 80 camels each carrying some 300 pounds of gold. Wherever his train halted on a Friday, he paid for the construction of a mosque. Everywhere he went, he became legendary for his generosity and the extravagant spending of his entourage.

Stopping in Cairo, one of the greatest cities in the world of that era, he left a strong impression because of his generous gifts and expenditures. His spending of millions of dollars caused the value of gold in Egypt to be devalued. Ibn al-Iyas, an Egyptian of the 16th century, mentioned Musa's visit to Cairo in 1324 as the most outstanding event of that year.

Other West African rulers had gone on pilgrimage before him but none had traveled on such a lavish scale. He gave so much in charity and gifts that on his return journey he had to borrow gold from a Cairo merchant. Musa's visit to Cairo and the wealth he displayed had one far-reaching effect. It stimulated the interest by Egyptian traders in commerce with West Africa.

On his return from Mecca, Musa was accompanied by an Andalusian-Muslim architect-scholar, Es-Saheli who introduced into Mali a new development in architecture, especially in the building of mosques and palaces. He brought into Malian construction burnt bricks, the flat roofs of North Africa and the pyramidal minaret, all which were to become the vogue throughout the empire. After this famed pilgrimage, Mali reached the peak of its prosperity and prominence. Ambassadors were exchanged with Arabia, Egypt, Morocco and other countries. The inhabitants of its capital Niani were described by the Moroccan traveler Leo Africanus as the most civilized, intelligent and respected of all the peoples of West Africa.

At Musa's death in 1337, Mali's influence extended from the Atlantic in the west to Hausaland in the east. The southern boundaries reached the forest belt and to the north, the heart of the Sahara. Ibn Batuta, a renowned Moroccan writer-traveller, who visited Mali some 12 years after Musa's death, reported that security and a general sense of justice were to be found in every corner of that vast kingdom.

Perhaps, no other writer has paid tribute to Mansa Musa, the greatest contributor to Mali's history, better than the North African scholar Al-Omari. A few years after Musa visited Cairo, Al-Omari wrote that in all of West Africa he was, 'the most powerful, the richest, the most fortunate, the most feared by his enemies and the most able to do good for those around him.

-Habeeb Salloum

Accessed: <http://www.africanevents.com/Essay-Habeeb-MansaMusa.htm>

Lesson 3: East, Central, and Southern Africa

Vocabulary

Swahili a combination of African and Arabic cultures and languages

oba a king in Benin

East Africa

Meroë was a trade center in East Africa. In about 350 Meroë was invaded by the kingdom of Axum. Axum was in the Ethiopian highlands. Axum traded ivory, frankincense, and myrrh with Greece and Rome. It also traded items made from brass, copper, and glass crystal. In return, Axum received cloth, jewelry, metals, and steel. Axum and other kingdoms in northeastern Africa were Christian. In the seventh century, Arabs invaded Egypt. The invasions did not destroy Axum. Changing climate and moving trade routes forced people to abandon Axum.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia replaced the Axum civilization. The Zagwe dynasty took over in about 1150. The Zagwe established Christianity in Ethiopia. They moved the capital to Adefa. Between 1185 and 1225, 11 great stone churches were built at Adefa. In 1270 the Solomonid dynasty took over the Zagwe dynasty. It ruled until 1974. Solomonid rulers stopped building great churches and palaces. There was no longer a permanent capital. The king and court moved up to three times a year.

Kilwa

Indian Ocean trade began in northern cities along the eastern coast of Africa. By the ninth century, southern cities such as Kilwa began trading gold and ivory. The Indian Ocean trade network ran from East Africa to India, China, and Arabia. Some Arabs settled along the coast of East Africa. East African and Muslim cultures mixed. This mixture formed the **Swahili** language and culture. In the 1500s the

Portuguese invaded Kilwa and other coastal cities. Swahili groups later regained control of many ports along the coast.

Great Zimbabwe

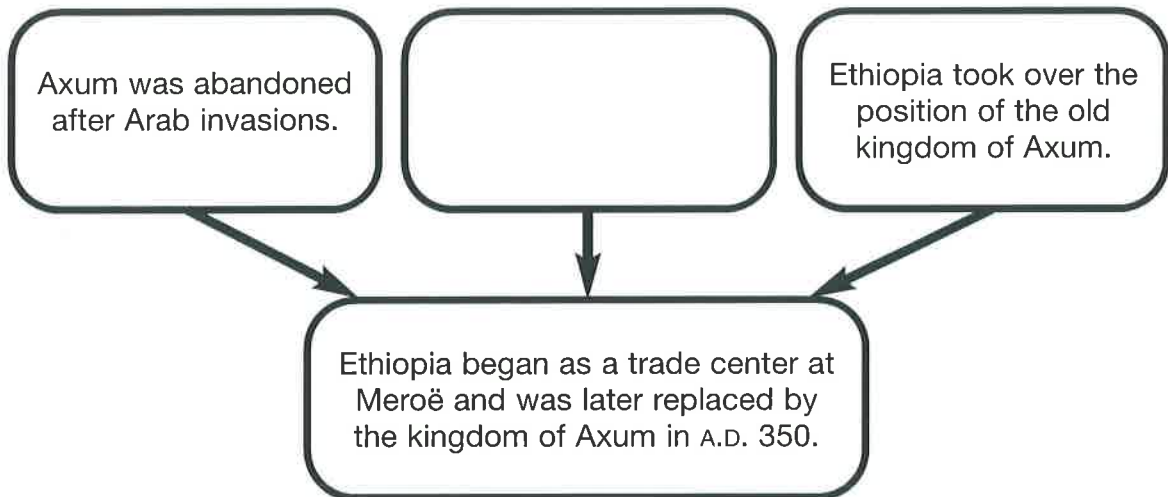
The city of Great Zimbabwe was named for the stone walls built around it. Great Zimbabwe was part of the gold and ivory trade. It made a lot of money by taxing gold. People left Great Zimbabwe in about 1450. They had used up all of their resources. The Portuguese invaded the area and took over the kingdom in the late 1600s.

Benin

The kingdom of Benin was near the delta of the Niger River. Its people lived in a forest region. Benin's kings were called **obas**. They came into power around 1300. Portuguese traders began trading coral beads and cloth for Benin's ivory, animal skins, and pepper. Benin became a powerful empire by 1500. It was trading cloth, spices, and slaves. Large walls were built to guard the kingdom's wealth. The people in Benin farmed. People lived in both the capital city and the country. Houses were made of mud. Benin was known for sculptures and carvings made of bronze, ivory, and wood.

Lesson 3: Review

1. **Summarize** Fill in the missing detail to complete the summary below.



2. List goods that were traded in eastern, central, and southern Africa.

3. How were the civilizations that existed in eastern, central, and southern Africa alike and different?

4. How were these civilizations influenced by other civilizations in the Indian Ocean trade network?

5. **Critical Thinking: Make Inferences** What might life have been like in these regions if they had not participated in international trade? Explain your answer.

Lesson 3: East, Central, and Southern Africa

Directions: Match the places in the box to the clues and write the terms on the lines provided. You will use each term more than once. You may use your textbook.

Axum

Ethiopia

Kilwa

Great Zimbabwe

Benin

1. exported ivory, frankincense, and myrrh _____
2. destroyed by change in climate and trade routes _____
3. known for its great art _____
4. used Swahili to help traders communicate _____
5. ruled by Solomonids after overthrow of Zagwe dynasty _____
6. ruled by kings called obas _____
7. replaced Axum civilization _____
8. attacked by Portuguese for control of Indian Ocean trade _____
9. ruled by Ezana _____
10. abandoned when population exhausted resources _____
11. built several churches out of solid rock _____
12. gained wealth by taxing trade goods _____
13. located in a fertile forest region near Niger River _____
14. built stone enclosures to show king's power _____



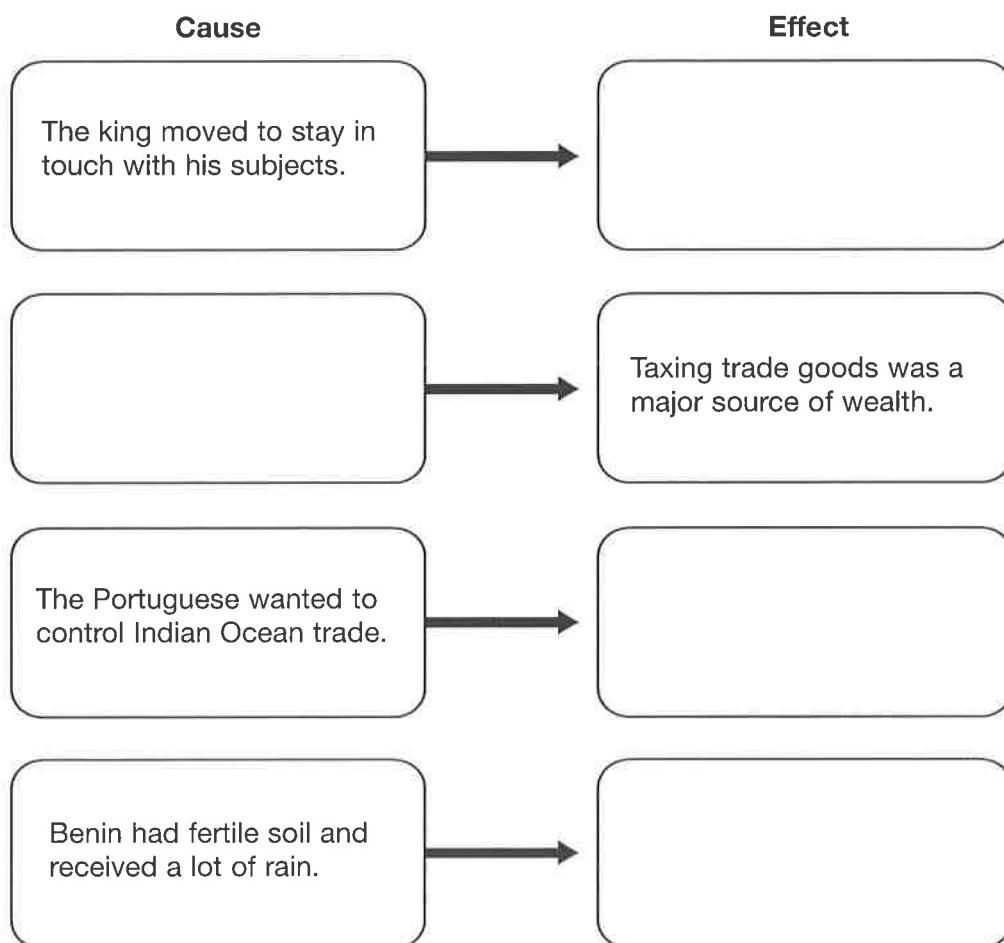
Notes for Home: Your child learned about trading empires in eastern, central, and southern Africa.

Home Activity: With your child, discuss the importance of trade to your community and state. What resources does your community sell to other places?

My Lesson Guide

Directions: Write the correct cause or effect.

- The king and his court moved 2–3 times a year.
- Kilwa and Mombasa were attacked in the early 1500s.
- Gold was not actually mined there, but was traded in the region.
- People grew crops such as cotton and yams.



Talk About It

With a partner, suppose you are working on the first of King Lalibela's 11 churches carved out of rock. How do you feel about the work? Have you ever seen another church like it? Do you think your work will be admired for years to come? Discuss your responses to these questions.



Notes for Home: Your child learned about East, Central, and southern Africa.

Home Activity: Ask your child to tell you about the kinds of items that were traded in the empires of Africa.